

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
ON
PROPOSED UPGRADE OF GREAT RIVER ENERGY'S
SAINT BONIFACIUS PEAKING STATION**

Watertown Town Hall

**Monday, April 8, 2002
7:00 pm**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will conduct a public information meeting in Watertown Township on April 8, 2002, on a proposal by Great River Energy (GRE) to upgrade its St. Bonifacius peaking station. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project, answer questions and scope the environmental assessment (i.e., determining the span or range of environmental analysis to be required).

On March 1, 2002, Great River Energy (GRE) submitted to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) a site permit application regarding an upgrade of GRE's Saint Bonifacius peaking station. The upgrade would expand the maximum generating output from 50 megawatts (MW) to approximately 74 MW. On March 8, 2002 the Chair of the Board accepted the application as complete and notified the applicant in writing of their decision.

GRE has also requested that the EQB process this application in accordance with the Alternative Review process of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Statute Section 116C.575). A power plant that operates above 50 MW is subject to the requirements of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 116C.51-69). The proposed modifications will result in the station's capacity exceeding 50 MW.

The Chair designated MEQB staff members Bill Storm as project manager and Larry Hartman as the public advisor in this matter.

The Chair has elected not to appoint a citizen advisory task force for this project.

This application (EQB Docket #02-34-PPS-GRE) will be the first to be reviewed under the new procedures of the Power Plant Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 116C.575 and Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000, Interim Guidance).

Inquiries about this project should be directed to MEQB project manager: **Bill Storm** (bill.storm@mnplan.state.mn.us) or **Larry Hartman** (larry.hartman@mnplan.state.mn.us) 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155; tel: 297-1257; fax: 651-296-9535.